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04.10200 SAVE OUR RIVERS

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04.10202 Scope


This procedure will apply to all proposed projects for the Save Our Rivers (SOR) Program.

04.10203 Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the action steps of the SOR project evaluation and selection process.


04.10204 References

SFWMD Policy:		
Save Our Rivers		04.100
Real Estate Property Acquisitions		04.600
Real Estate Appraisal		04.301
Land Management		05.001
SFWMD Related Documents:		
Save Our Rivers Guidelines		04.101
Save Our Rivers Methods		04.103
Florida Statutes:		
Water Management Lands Trust Fund		
Florida Resources River Act		§373.59
Florida Preservation 2000 Act		§259.101
Florida Administrative Code:		
Water Management Lands Trust Fund		17-42
Miscellaneous Provisions		40E-7
Save Our Rivers Five Year Plan		40E-7

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04.10205 Definitions

Acquisition	Acquiring title to land in fee; or in the discretion of the District, such other legal interest necessary for water management, water supply, or the conservation and protection of water resources.
Board	The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District.
District	The South Florida Water Management District.
Florida Preservation 2000	Section 259.101, Florida Statutes, providing for the proceeds of bonds deposited in the Florida Preservation 2000 Trust Fund and for criteria for certain projects financed by such projects.
Plan	The Five Year Plan as approved by the Board.
Selection	The process of identifying and evaluating proposed projects for the inclusion in the Five Year Plan.
SOR	The Save Our Rivers Program as provided under Section 373.59, Florida Statutes.
SOR Project	A geographical area possessing unique features necessary for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources.

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04.10209 Introduction

Applications from private and public groups are reviewed. The SFWMD identifies lands within the District that may be suitable as candidates for acquisition under SOR. The Land Evaluation Matrix or the SOR Selection Criteria for Water Resource Projects are used to address the water and natural resource values of each parcel.

Proposals are reviewed internally by each Department and public comment is acquired at public meetings conducted by the Construction and Land Management Department (CLM). Recommendations including public comment are presented to the Governing Board for approval at the Governing Board Public Hearings.

04.10210 Procedures

Performed By

Step/Action/Responsibility

Submitter of Proposed Project


For SOR project consideration, the SOR Project Proposal Form is completed and submitted to the District. The submitter of a proposed project can be any individual, private or public group or District staff.

Director, CLM

Scheduled Updates of Acquisition Plan

Accepts proposals at any time or delays action on proposals until the annual update conducted during the March - August time frame.

Ensures the Acquisition Plan is updated annually prior to January 15th of each year.

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Performed By

Step/Action/Responsibility

Senior Technical Staff

Land Evaluation Matrix

Following on-site or aerial inspections of each tract, the water resource value of each project, with regard to matrix parameters, is determined by a team of senior technical staff. See Save Our Rivers Method (04.103) for details on the Land Evaluation Matrix criteria. Staff recommendations are presented to the Director, CLM.

Senior Technical Staff

SOR Selection Criteria for Water Resource Projects


Following consultation with District and other appropriate agencies and review of technical plans and specifications for the proposed project by senior technical staff, the merits of the proposal are determined based on the selection criteria. See the Save Our Rivers Method (04.103) for details on the SOR Selection Criteria for Water Resources Projects.

Staff recommendations are presented to the Director, CLM.

Director, CLM

Internal Review and Comments

Project proposals and technical staff evaluations are circulated to all Departments of the District for comment. Review time is not to exceed 30 days.

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Public

Public Comment

CLM will hold public meetings on all SOR project proposals before final agency actions are recommended. The public meetings will be noticed in the Florida Administrative Weekly and in newspapers of local circulation. Meetings will be held at times and locations convenient to the public most affected. For projects affecting less than 100 land owners, owners will be notified by direct mail. For large projects, owners will be notified by legal notice in newspapers of local circulation.

Director, CLM

Presentation to Governing Board

Following proposed project evaluation, internal evaluation and public comment, an Acquisition Plan and Status Report are prepared. These recommendations are presented to the Governing Board for final approval at a properly noticed public hearing of the Board.

Governing Board

Adoption of Update to Five Year Plan

All proposed projects and current projects are reviewed on an annual basis. The Board annually adopts an update to the Five Year Plan and after adoption, the projects approved are incorporated in a report which is made available to the public. All projects included in the Five Year Plan are not necessarily acquired.